



Boogaard Assurantien opens their new branch in San Nicolas

Providing a greatly appreciated facelift to city of San Nicolas, Boogaard Assurantien opened their beautiful new offices at Helfrichstraat 2-A, on Friday evening February 23. Almost one year of work has converted a dilapidated, abandoned building into a showcase of art deco architecture.

The official opening party was a cause for celebration attracting a large part of the business community and attended by a members of Parliament, Ministers, and Aruba's Prime Minister Nelson Oduber. The Prime Minister was invited to perform the honors of the opening ceremony along with Bert Schouten, CEO of HDI Verzekeringen, Rotterdam, for whom Boogaard Assurantien is one of the largest policy writers. A highlight of the evening was a few words of appreciation from Mr. Schouten and his staff, and the presentation of a beautiful sculpture to mark the occasion.

Joining Jan Boogaard and his wife Brenda for a champagne toast to what is hoped will be the start of an exodus of business back to San Nicolaas were the Prime Minister, Mr. Schouten, and staff members, Miro Dabian, General Director of Boogaard and Sussy Lampe, office manager.

During the opening ceremonies, Aruba's former and first Chief of Police Roland Peterson was invited to the dais to say a few words. Mr. Peterson was instrumental in Jan Boogaard deciding to open an office in San Nicolaas, even going so far as to take the owner of the company around the town, showing him potential locations. Mr. Peterson confessed that he personally did not have the vision of Jan Boogaard, who saw the potential of what Mr. Peterson considered an unsuitable location. The result was a true achievement of transformation by architect Gerry Koster and construction engineers Thiel Corporation.

Mr. Peterson offered the sincere gratitude of the community and the San Nicolas Business Association for showing his faith in Aruba's Sunrise City, and confidence in the business that can be conducted "p'riba di brug." It is his fond hope that numerous other companies will observe Mr. Boogaard's example and follow suit. The gala evening that followed the official opening included music by the Tsunami Band and a fabulous buffet from the Promenade Restaurant.

Congratulations to Boogaard Assurantien and San Nicolaas on the establishment of this beautiful facility!